

Amendments to the Claims:

No changes are made to the claims, and this listing of claims is therefore presented as a courtesy:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A global animation system, comprising:
a host system to manage a pool of reusable characteristics, wherein the host system is configured to:

interface, via a plurality of computers, with a first group of users and a second group of users, the first group of users being authorized to modify at least a portion of the pool of reusable characteristics, and the second group of users being authorized to develop a character or feature for a digital animation project by using reusable characteristics from the pool of reusable characteristics without modifying the reusable characteristics;

receive a change to a first character or feature of the digital animation project from a member of available artists via a computer located remote from the host system and in operative communication with the host system over a network, the member being one of the second group of users;

audit the change to the first character or feature to determine whether at least one reusable characteristic from the pool of reusable characteristics defines a dependency between the change and a second character or feature of the animation project; and

when the host system determines that at least one reusable characteristic from the pool of reusable characteristics defines a dependency between the change and a second character or feature of the animation project, notify the computer of the dependency and provide the computer with access to the second character or feature of the animation project.

2. (Original) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics contains meta-data relating to the character or feature.

3. (Original) The global animation system of claim 2, wherein the meta-data includes at least one of a control button, a preset feature, a macro, and a computer program to control the at least one reusable characteristic.

4. (Original) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is developed at least in part by an administrator.

5. (Previously presented) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the computers comprise a multi-user computer configured to allow a plurality of artists to log on.

6. (Previously presented) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the member of the available artists is reviewed by an administrator prior to allowing the member to log on to one of the computers.

7. (Original) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the member is selected based on at least one of a skill set, experience with a similar task, response time, cost, a national law, an international treaty, security, and a preference of a producer, director, or client.

8. (Original) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is configured to accept input to update the at least one reusable characteristic while the at least one reusable characteristic is in use.

9. (Original) The global animation system of claim 1, wherein the member may update the at least one character or feature in a pool of characters or in a pool of features.

10. (Original) The global animation system of claim 9, wherein an administrator may review the updated at least one character or feature prior to accepting the updated at least one character or feature.

11. (Original) The global animation system of claim 9, wherein the updated at least one character or feature is viewable by a customer.

12. (Original) The global animation system of claim 11, wherein the customer may post feedback viewable by at least one of the member and an administrator.

13. (Original) The global animation system of claim 12, further comprising a messenger configured to notify at least one of the member and the administrator of the feedback.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for managing an animation project with a host system, comprising:

loading an animation project;

disassembling the animation project into at least one individual task to be performed on a digital content object;

assigning the at least one individual task to an artist from the available artists at least partially as a function of a nationality or a geographic location associated with the artist and a national law or an international treaty, wherein the artist is associated with a computer;

sending instructions indicative of the at least one individual task to the computer;

sending the digital content object to the computer; and

receiving a modified digital content object from the second computer, wherein the modified digital content was formed by the at least one individual task.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the assigning step is based on at least one of a skill set, experience with a similar task, response time, cost, security, and a preference of a producer, director, or client.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving a reusable characteristic from a first computer associated with a first artist from a prequalified subset of available artists, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics contains meta-data relating to at least one character or feature of an animation project.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the meta-data includes at least one of a control button, a preset feature, a macro, and a computer program to control the at least one reusable characteristic.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is developed at least in part by an administrator.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is developed at least in part by the artist.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the artist is a member of a group of available artists and each member of the group of available artists is reviewed by an administrator prior to entry into the group.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is configured to accept input to update the at least one reusable characteristic while the at least one reusable characteristic is in use.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the member may update the at least one character or feature in a pool of characters or in a pool of features.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein an administrator may review the updated at least one character or feature prior to accepting the updated at least one character or feature.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the updated at least one character or feature is viewable by a customer.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the customer may post feedback viewable by at least one of the artist and an administrator.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising a messenger configured to notify at least one of the artist and the administrator of the feedback.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for searching for reusable characteristics, comprising:

searching for at least one first characteristic in a pool of reusable characteristics stored on computer readable media;

identifying at least one second characteristic, wherein the at least one first characteristic has been determined to depend on the at least one second characteristic;

in response to a change in the at least one first characteristic during development of an animation object on a computer, sending notification to the computer indicating the dependence of the at least one first characteristic on the at least one second characteristic;

locating digital content containing the at least one second characteristic; and

providing the digital content to the computer.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is created at least in part by an administrator.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is created at least in part by an artist.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the artist is a member of a pool of available artists.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the identifying is based on at least one of a first identifier associated with the at least one first characteristic and a second identifier associated with the at least one second characteristic.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is configured to accept input to update the at least one reusable characteristic while the at least one reusable characteristic is in use.

33. (Previously Presented) A system for searching for reusable characteristics, comprising:

means for searching for at least one first characteristic in a pool of reusable characteristics stored on computer readable media;

means for identifying at least one second characteristic, wherein the at least one first characteristic has been determined to depend on the at least one second characteristic;

means for sending notification to a computer indicating the dependence of the at least one first characteristic on the at least one second characteristic in response to a change in the at least one first characteristic during development of an animation object on the computer;

means for locating digital content containing the at least one second characteristic; and

means for providing the digital content.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is created at least in part by an administrator.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is created at least in part by an artist.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the artist is a member of a pool of available artists.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the means for identifying uses at least one of a first identifier associated with the at least one first characteristic and a second identifier associated with the at least one second characteristic.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the pool of reusable characteristics is configured to accept input to update the at least one first or second reusable characteristic while the at least one first or second reusable characteristic is in use.